

**Appl. No. 10/691,350**  
**Amdt. dated November 29, 2004**  
**Reply to Office action of September 29, 2004**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously presented) A drive assembly adapted to be coupled to a bus having a variable stub length, comprising:

a drive;

a plurality of cables coupled to the drive;

an interface board, comprising:

at least one expander coupled to the cables; and

an external connector coupled to the expander,

wherein the external connector provides signals to and receives signals from the drive and wherein the expander performs signal conditioning on signals communicated through the external connector and controls the stub length of the bus.

16. (Previously presented) The drive assembly according to claim 15 wherein the signal conditioning mitigates line transmissions, line capacitance, and periodic variations in voltage and temperature in the drive.

17. (Previously presented) The drive assembly according to claim 15 wherein the expander is selectively enabled.

18. (Previously presented) The drive assembly according to claim 15, the interface board further comprising a control logic device.

19. (Previously presented) The drive assembly according to claim 18 wherein the control logic device is connected to the expander.

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20. (Previously presented) The drive assembly according to claim 15, the interface board further including at least one bus terminator.

21. (Previously presented) The drive assembly according to claim 20, wherein the bus terminator is located between the expander and external connector.

22. (Previously presented) The drive assembly of claim 15, wherein the drive comprises an Id connector, and the plurality of cables comprises a cable coupled to the Id connector.

23. (Previously presented) The drive assembly of claim 15, wherein the interface board further comprises a terminator coupled between the cables and the expander.

24. (Currently amended) The drive assembly of claim 15 further comprising a bus connector, wherein the bus connector comprises at least one of a 50-pin and a 68-pin small computer system interface (SCSI) connector.

25. (Previously presented) The drive assembly of claim 15, wherein the external connector comprises a single connector attachment (SCA) connector.

26. (Previously presented) The drive assembly of claim 15, wherein the drive comprises one of a tape drive and a hard disk drive.